

# PORTLAND HARBOR

Congressional Briefing

**November 18, 2015**

**By EPA Region 10**

# Important Site Background

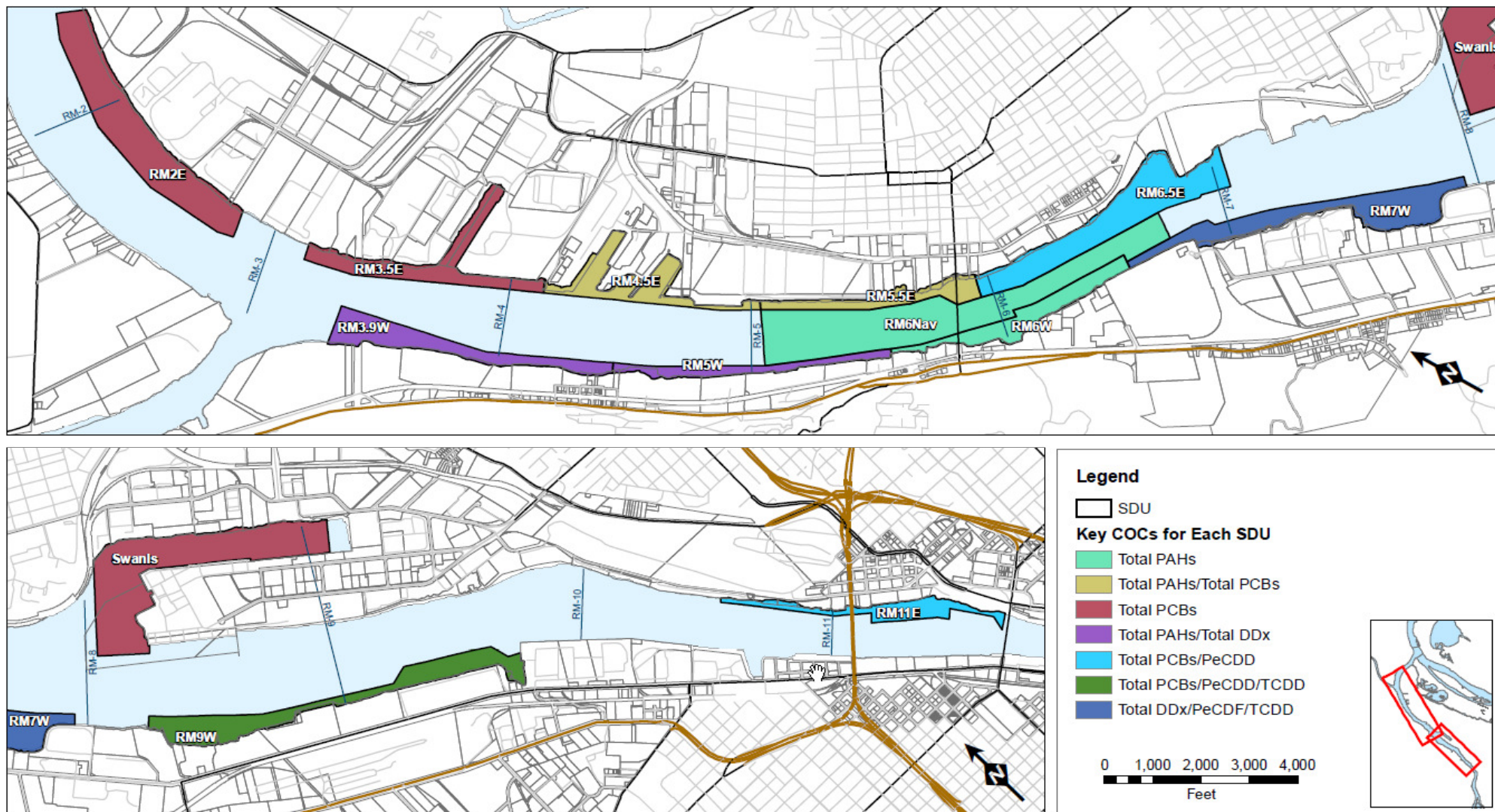
- Numerous contaminants have been found within Portland Harbor at levels that present an unacceptable risk to people and wildlife.
- PCBs, dioxin/furans, DDT, DDE and DDD and PAHs are the most prevalent
- Some locations in the river are more highly contaminated than others and EPA is focusing on these “hot spots” for the most aggressive cleanup technologies (dredging and capping).
- Remaining areas addressed by less aggressive measures such as EMNR and MNR.

# Remedial Action Objectives

- For the Portland Harbor Site, nine media-specific Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) have been developed
  - For human health protection, there are four (4) RAOs related to reducing risk to acceptable levels from exposure to contamination in sediments, groundwater, surface water and from consumption of fish or shellfish
  - For ecological protection, likewise, there are four analogous RAOs similar to human health
  - Finally there is an RAO related to reducing contamination from river banks to surface water and sediments to acceptable levels

# Alternatives in the Feasibility Study

- When developing alternatives, EPA considers a combination of technologies
  - All alternatives (except Alternative A) include:
    - Dredging
    - Capping
    - In-situ treatment
    - Ex-situ treatment
    - Enhanced Monitored Natural Recovery
    - Monitored Natural Recovery
    - Institutional Controls



Source Credits:

Figure 4.1-2. Sediment Decision Units and Key COCs

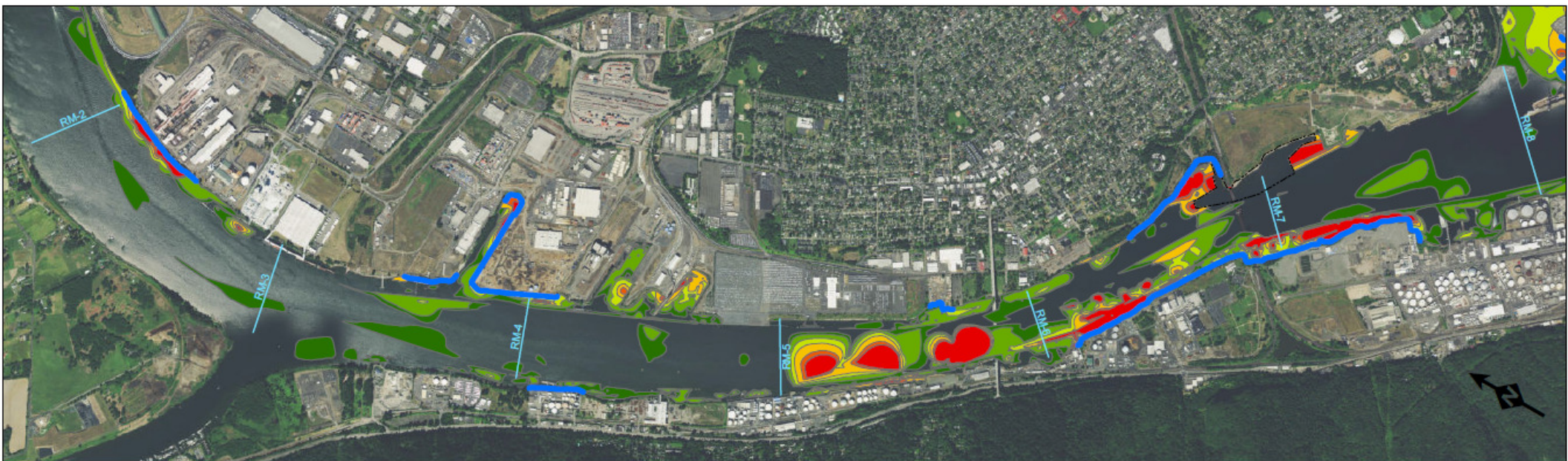
# Principal Threat Waste

## Identification of PTW:

- Source Materials/Pure Product, and/or
- Highly Toxic, and/or
- Highly Mobile

## Addressing PTW:

- Treatment to the maximum extent practicable should be considered in developing alternatives
- Statutory preference for treatment of PTW but not a requirement
- The following are also being considered to address PTW:
  - Containment within the river
  - Dredging with disposal



### Legend

— Site with Known Contaminated Riverbank

### Alternative SMAs

- Alternative B
- Alternative C
- Alternative D
- Alternative E
- Alternative F
- Alternative G

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000  
Feet



Source Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

# NRRB and CSTAG Process

- The NRRB and CSTAG will meet on November 18 and 19.
- We have provided a summary of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to the NRRB and CSTAG.
- EPA has not proposed a remedy for Portland Harbor cleanup but, for purposes of getting comments and input from the NRRB and CSTAG, we will outline an option for the cleanup.
- The Region is interested in getting feedback on the following key areas: level of risk reduction, balancing dredging and capping with natural recovery, use of long-term predictive models, use of ICs, defining and addressing PTW, cleanup levels, costs, etc.

## NRRB/CSTAG Process, cont.

- The Boards will also consider comments from key stakeholders:
  - The Trustees
  - The Six Tribes
  - The Community Advisory Group, and
  - The LWG
- Comments from the Boards will be made available to the public along with responses from the Region. Depending on the complexity of the comments, we may be able to post this information in January.
- We also plan to make our presentation materials from the Board meeting available to the public after the meetings are concluded.

# Stakeholder NRRRB/CSTAG Comment Synopsis

## Oregon:

- Concerned about schedule—believe it's time to make a decision
- Focus on their source control
- Looking for opportunities to reduce costs
- Want less restrictions in the river/less reliance on fish advisories

## LWG:

- EPA's documents lack enough information to make a risk management decision
- Level of treatment of PTW
- EPA needs a model to evaluate natural recovery

# Stakeholder NRRRB/CSTAG Comment Synopsis

## Tribes:

- Want a remedy that achieves cleanup goals at the end of construction—suggest an alternative that goes beyond the most aggressive option—Alternative G+.
- Yakama care deeply about contaminant impacts to the Columbia.

## CAG:

- Not comfortable leaving contamination in the river—prefer a more aggressive remedy—Alternative G+.
- Have no issues with 24-hour dredge projects.

# What happens after the NRRB and CSTAG?

- EPA will use feedback from key stakeholders and the NRRB and CSTAG to prepare a Proposed Plan.
- The Proposed Plan may look very different from the option outlined in the NRRB/CSTAG presentation materials.
- We aim to publish the Proposed Plan in March, with a 60-day public comment period.
- We continue to conduct extensive outreach to help prepare the public to comment on the Proposed Plan.
- Our goal is to publish the Record of Decision by the end of December 2016.